

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

May 26, 2015

Attendees: Michelle Bertram, Mike Glasgow- ADRC; Judy Cesarec, Kostyn Tyksinski- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Barb Jacob-New Berlin Food Pantry; Regina Estrada- Blessings in a Backpack; Abby Demler- Molina Healthcare; Christie Hanson- The Salvation Army; Joe Muchka- Addiction Resource Council; Melinda Stuart- Smart Moves, Jan Skell-UWEX.

Welcome, Introductions and Advisory Committee Updates: Regina Estrada

If you haven't already done so, please respond to the WCNC survey. The feedback will be used to help the Coalition meet member needs. Membership forms for the coming year are now available. The membership fee remains at \$10. We will review and confirm the Coalition's Mission Statement at our June 23rd meeting. The Advisory Committee is looking for a larger project to support that would have a positive impact on the community. Please pass suggestions on to Regina or Michelle. Your ideas are welcome.

Presenter: Benjamin Juarez, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Representative in the Office of U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin - *Legislative Updates.*

The following is a list of some of the legislation currently being debated or recently passed, Senator Baldwin is interested in feedback on these issues. Note regarding federal grants: dollars come to the state and the state distributes the funds.

- The current **Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act** of 2010, which funds programs such as school lunch, school breakfast, WIC, and summer feeding programs is set to sunset on September 30, 2015. Controversial exemptions had been granted in this Act to schools who requested to opt out of nutrition standards. Some schools stated that for budget reasons, they were not able to offer whole grains or foods with less salt.
- In April 2015, the House Education and the Workforce Committee began work on the **Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act** which will authorize all of the federal child nutrition programs. The committee hopes to have this work completed by September 30th.
- **Elementary and Secondary Education Act** (No Child Left Behind) covering many school related opportunities is being discussed and will be updated. The new bill will reduce the number of school testing's and make other improvements.
- **Core Opportunity Resources for Equity and Excellence (CORE Act)** - This bill has been developed to work on existing disparities in public education by establishing accountability requirements that encourage states and school districts to give all students equitable access to the resources necessary to achieve college and career readiness by high school graduation.
- **SMART Act:** strengthens Medicare, protects beneficiaries, and improves the Medicare Secondary Payer process by enabling all parties to settle claims quickly and speed repayments to Medicare.
- **Fitness Integrated with Teaching Kids Act (FIT Kids Act)** - grants will be awarded to states to implement programs to promote physical activity, education, fitness and nutrition that are based on scientifically valid research. Grants are limited to a maximum of five years.
- The purpose of the **Amendment to the Parental Bereavement Act** is to extend coverage and existing benefits up to 12 weeks of time off without pay allowed by the Family Medical Leave Act to employees who have experienced the death of a child.
- **Raise the Wage Act** - legislation that would increase the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020. The legislation would raise wages for nearly 35 million American workers. Small business might be able to get a waiver.

A concern raised at the coalition meeting will be brought back to Tammy Baldwin regarding loss of certain benefits when an employee receives a small raise. A suggestion might work to incorporate a sliding scale rather than having benefits cut off.

Agency Updates:

ADRC, Mike Glasgow, Michelle Bertram—Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers will be available as of June 1st (pick up at the ADRC or at food pantries). Seniors will receive a nutrition brochure along with a packet of vouchers in smaller denominations equaling a total value of \$25. Another person, with a verifying letter can pick-up for the senior. Still waiting for the Older Americans Act to be reauthorized.

SMART Moves, Melinda Stuart—Melinda's new position is working with seniors as they downsize. She will continue to share resources learned through WCNC with clients.

Addiction Resource Council, Joe Muchka—the final county-wide drug collection occurred in May and collected 2 tons of prescription medications. County residents are now encouraged to use drop-off boxes which are located at most police departments. Will be partnering with Impact and Waukesha City Schools on a 10th grade screening for interventions.

Molina Health Care, Abby Demler—Abby is no longer with UWEX, but has a new position teaching nutrition and access to health care with Molina.

The Salvation Army, Christie Hanson—The S.A. has currently used approximately 25% of utility funds. Mail Carrier food drive was very successful, working now to organize foods.

New Berlin Food Pantry, Barb Jacob—Mail Carrier drive also a great success. Did receive some really old canned goods and trying to get the word out that donating old foods is not recommended.

Waukesha Food Pantry, Judy Cesarec and Kostyn Tyksinski—Looking forward to distributing Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers. The pantry has its own garden producing fresh produce to distribute to pantry clients. The garden has been dedicated to a volunteer who designed and established it and has since passed away. Currently taking sign-ups for school backpacks filled with supplies. Distribution will be in August. The Beer, Cheese and Bacon fundraising event in April was well attended. Four younger staff members are stepping up at the pantry. Pam Cesarec and Kostyn (bilingual) will attend WCNC meetings.

Blessings in a Backpack, Regina Estrada—Making sure Blessings has enough supplies to reach the end of the school year, and will soon be planning for next year. Will hold a September 26th fundraiser.

UW-Extension, Jan Skell—Nutrition Education Program grant has been turned in and approved at the state level. Experienced some funding cuts and will have to reduce some programming. Ending school programs and planning for summer.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2015, 9 am

Topic: Transportation and Interfaith Mobility Manager